

House Resolution 767

By: Representatives Abrams of the 84th and Oliver of the 83rd

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending Professor Natasha Trethewey of Emory University; and for
2 other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Professor Natasha Trethewey of Emory University, where she holds the Phyllis
4 Wheatley Distinguished Chair in Poetry, was awarded the prestigious Pulitzer Prize for
5 Poetry in 2007 and thereby achieved a distinction attained by only two other African
6 American female poets; and

7 WHEREAS, she is well-recognized as an acclaimed female poet whose powerful collection
8 of verse, entitled *Native Guard*, reveals the heroism and horrific tragedy of black Union
9 soldiers guarding a fort on Ship Island off the coast of Mississippi during the U.S. Civil War;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, numerous awards have been bestowed on this University of Georgia alumna,
12 including fellowships at the Rockefeller Foundation, Guggenheim Foundation, and Harvard
13 University's prestigious Bunting Institute as well as notable poetry prizes including the
14 Lillian Smith Award for poetry, the 2008 Mississippi Governor's Award for Excellence in
15 the Arts, and the 2008 Georgia Woman of the Year; and

16 WHEREAS, her intellectual peers widely acknowledge her exceptional ability to address the
17 notion of cultural memory and search out historical erasures, for it is vital to remember and
18 find worthiness in the untold stories in order that truth be told; and

19 WHEREAS, this passionate poet skillfully explores the innermost yearning and complex
20 hopes that accompany our most private thoughts and reclaims that interior life where the true
21 self flourishes and to which humankind returns for strength, meaning, and well-being.

22 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
23 the members of this body commend Professor Natasha Trethewey for her profound
24 contributions and accomplishments.

25

26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
27 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Ms. Natasha Trethewey.